the invitation of the India-CIS Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

(b) The Government has been encouraging exchange of trade delegations, *inter alia* with the Russian Far East, in order to stimulate direct contacts between business entities in both countries. The visit of the delegation from Primorya was the first such visit from the region and served to open up a new area for trade for Indian businessmen. The Government has been encouraging visits by Indian businessmen to the Russian Far East to strengthen trade relations with the region.

Import of milk powder

1837- SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that milk powder is imported to overcome the shortage of milk in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from where the milk powder is imported; and

(c) the quantity procured during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The milk powder is imported from countries like German Federal Republic, Ireland, Netherland, Denmark, Switzerland; Canada; France; Singapore; Belgium, UK; Malaysia; Australia; Newzealand and USA.

(c) The quantity of milk powder imported during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 is as under:—

Year	Quantity Metric Tonne
1992-93	11994
1993-94	3000

Price rise of exportable commodities due to inflation

1838. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleaed to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of exportable commodities have increased due to inflation.

(b) whether it is also a fact that high rate of excise duty is incompetative for exportable commodities;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce International Price Reimbursement Scheme; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for decline in exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Inflation by definition, is an increase in the general price level, including the price level, of commodities meant for exports. However, its effect varies from commodity to commodity.

(b) Excise duty should not affect the price of goods to be exported as goods can be exported under bond without payment of excise duty. Goods can be exported on payment of duty and such duty can be claimed back as rebate. Besides, excise rules also provide for refunding excise duty paid on inputs used in the manufacture of export products. Under the Modvat Scheme also, credit of excise duty paid on the inputs is allowed on export of the finished products.

(c) International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) which envisaged providing Iron and Steel at International prices to the exporters of engineering goods, has been withdrawn with effect from 1-4-94. However, facility of duty free import of inputs is available under the Advance Licensing Scheme to the engineering goods exporters.